

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - (a) receiving a search query;
 - (b) determining whether the search query has been previously received;
 - (c) responsive to a determination that the search query has not been previously received,
 - (i) receiving a new result set associated with the search query,
 - (ii) storing the new result set associated with the search query in an offline-accessible data store, and
 - (iii) outputting the new result set as a search result of the search query;
 - (e d) responsive to a determination that if the search query has been previously received,
 - (i) retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query from the offline-accessible data store, the previously stored result set comprising a plurality of categories each of which comprises ~~comprising~~ one or more articles, and
 - (ii) determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query; and
 - (~~d~~ iii) responsive to a determination that if the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is ~~determined to be~~ a valid search result set for the search query, outputting the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query as a search result of the search query.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether a search query has been previously received comprises comparing the search query to a list of previously received search queries.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises determining at least one of the following: determining that one of the plurality of categories of the result set is new, determining that one of the plurality of categories of the result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new article has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that an article in one of the plurality of categories of the result set has been changed, determining that a new e-mail has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been sent in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new web page has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a web page has been changed in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new document has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, and determining that a new document has been generated in one of the plurality of categories of the result set.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a time associated with the result set.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a date associated with the result set.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query comprises at least one of the following: retrieving the result set from an optical disc, retrieving the result set from a hard drive, retrieving the result set from an external data storage medium, retrieving the result set from an external data storage reader, and retrieving the result set from a data store on the client-side.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a search query comprises at least one of the following: receiving the search query from a user operating an offline client-side device, receiving the search query from a user operating an online client-side device.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the previously stored result set associated with the search query comprises at least one of the following: client-side articles, and network articles.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the search query comprises at least one of the following: an implicit query, an explicit query, both an implicit query and an explicit query.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the previously stored result set associated with the search query comprises at least one of the following: a real-time event, a historical event, an indexable event, a non-indexable event.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each category of the plurality of categories is associated with an article type and contains only articles of that article type, and determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query further comprises:
determining whether an article in one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store;
determining whether a new article of an article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store; and
responsive to (1) a determination that the article in the one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, or (2) a determination that the new article of the article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, determining that the one of the

plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is not a valid search result set for the search query.

~~further comprising:~~

~~(e) — if the search query has not been previously received,~~

~~(i) — receiving a new result set;~~

~~(ii) — storing the new result set and the search query in an offline-accessible data-store; and~~

~~(iii) — indexing the new result set and the search query for subsequent retrieval of the new result set.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein (e) further comprises:

(iv) determining expiration data for the new result set.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein outputting the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query as a search result of the search query comprises: outputting a second category of the plurality of categories, the second category being determined and flagged expired.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, wherein storing the new result set and the search query in the offline-accessible data store comprises at least one of the following: storing the new result set on an optical disc, storing the new result set on a hard drive, storing the new result set on an external data storage medium, storing the new result set on an external data storage reader, and storing the new result set on a data store on the client-side.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein determining expiration data for the new result set comprises determining expiration data for at least one of the plurality of categories of the new result set, and displaying the expiration data for the at least one of the plurality of categories of the new result set.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium containing program code, comprising:

- (a) program code for receiving a search query;
- (b) program code for determining whether the search query has been previously received;
- (c) program code for if the search query has not been previously received,

- (i) receiving a new result set associated with the search query,
 - (ii) storing the new result set associated with the search query in an offline-accessible data store, and

- (iii) outputting the new result set as a search result of the search query;

- (e ~~d~~) program code for if the search query has been previously received,

- (i) retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query from the offline-accessible data store, the previously stored result set comprising a plurality of categories each of which comprises ~~comprising~~ one or more articles, and

- (ii) determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query~~s~~, and

- (~~e~~ ~~iii~~) ~~program code for if responsive to a determination that~~ the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is ~~determined to be~~ a valid search result set for the search query, outputting the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query as a search result of the search query.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for determining whether the search query has been previously received comprises program code for comparing the search query to a list of previously received search queries.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the

search query comprises program code for determining at least one of the following: determining that one of the plurality of categories of the result set is new, determining that one of the plurality of categories of the result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new article has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that an article in the result set has been changed, determining that a new e-mail has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new e-mail has been sent in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new web page has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a web page has been changed in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, determining that a new document has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the result set, and determining that a new document has been generated in one of the plurality of categories of the result set.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises program code for determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a time associated with the result set.

21. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises program code for determining whether a preset amount of time has elapsed from a date associated with the result set.

22. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query comprises at least one of the following: program code for retrieving the result set from an optical disc, program code for retrieving the result set from a hard drive, program code for retrieving the result set from an external data storage medium, program code for retrieving

the result set from an external data storage reader, and program code for retrieving the result set from a data store on the client-side.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the program code for receiving a search query comprises at least one of the following: program code for receiving the search query from a user operating an offline client-side device, program code for receiving the search query from a user operating an online client-side device.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: client-side articles, and network articles.

25. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the search query comprises at least one of the following: an implicit query, an explicit query, both an implicit query and an explicit query.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the previously stored result set comprises at least one of the following: a real-time event, a historical event, an indexable event, a non-indexable event.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein each category of the plurality of categories is associated with an article type and contains only articles of that article type, and determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query further comprises:

determining whether an article in one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store;

determining whether a new article of an article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store; and

responsive to (1) a determination that the article in the one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-

accessible data store, or (2) a determination that the new article of the article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, determining that the one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is not a valid search result set for the search query.

~~wherein the computer-readable medium further contains:~~

~~(e) — program code for if the search query has not been previously received,~~

~~(i) — receiving a new result set;~~

~~(ii) — storing the new result set and the search query in an offline-accessible data store; and~~

~~(iii) — indexing the new result set and the search query for subsequent retrieval of the new result set.~~

28. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 27, wherein (e c) further comprises:

(iv) program code for determining expiration data for the new result set.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 27, wherein the program code for determining whether the search query has been previously received comprises program code for comparing the search query to a list of previously received search queries.

30. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 27, wherein the program code for if the search query has not been previously received, (i) receiving a new result set comprises program code for performing a search for articles in response to the search query.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17 27, wherein the program code for storing the new result set and the search query in the offline-accessible data store comprises at least one of the following: program code for storing the new result set on an optical disc, program code for storing the new result set on a hard drive, program code for

storing the new result set on an external data storage medium, program code for storing the new result set on an external data storage reader, and program code for storing the new result set on a data store on the client-side.

32. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 28, wherein the program code for determining expiration data for the new result set comprises program code for determining expiration data for at least one of the plurality of categories of the new result set, and program code for displaying the expiration data for the at least one of the plurality of categories of the new result set.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

- (e) receiving a request for an article, the article being accessible via a network;
- (f) determining whether the article is stored in an offline-accessible data store; and
- (g) if the article is stored in the offline-accessible data store, determining whether the article is valid;
- (h) if the article is determined to be valid, retrieving the article from the offline-accessible data store;
- (i) if the article is determined not to be valid, retrieving the article via the network;
- (j) if the article is not stored in the offline-accessible data store, retrieving the article via the network; and
- (k) outputting the article.

34. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

- (a) receiving a search query;
- (b) determining whether the search query has been previously received;
- (c) if the search query has not been previously received,
 - (i) receiving a first result set,
 - (ii) storing the first result set in an offline-accessible data store,
 - (iii) indexing the first result set for subsequent retrieval, and
- (d) if the search query has been previously received,

- (i) retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query, the previously stored result set comprising a plurality of categories each of which comprising one or more articles, wherein each category of the plurality of categories is associated with an article type and contains only articles of that article type,
- (ii) determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query, comprising:

- (1) determining whether an article in one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store,
- (2) determining whether a new article of an article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, and
- (3) responsive to a determination that the article in the one of the plurality of categories has been modified after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, or a determination that the new article of the article type associated with the one of the plurality of categories has come into existence after the previously stored result set was stored in the offline-accessible data store, determining that the one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is not a valid search result set for the search query.

(iii) if the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is determined to be a valid search result set for the search query, outputting the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query as a search result of the search query, and

(iv) if the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is determined not to be a valid search result set for the search query,

- (1) receiving a second result set,
- (2) storing the second result set in the offline-accessible data store, and

(3) indexing the second result set for subsequent retrieval.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein determining whether a search query has been previously received comprises comparing the search query to a list of previously received search queries.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a computer processor for executing computer program instructions;

a computer-readable storage medium having executable computer program instructions tangibly embodied thereon, the executable computer program instructions comprising instructions for:

(a) receiving a search query;

(b) determining whether the search query has been previously received;

(c) responsive to a determination that the search query has not been previously received,

(i) receiving a new result set associated with the search query,

(ii) storing the new result set associated with the search query in an offline-accessible data store, and

(iii) outputting the new result set as a search result of the search query;

(d) responsive to a determination that the search query has been previously received,

(i) retrieving a previously stored result set associated with the search query from the offline-accessible data store, the previously stored result set comprising a plurality of categories each of which comprises one or more articles,

(ii) determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query, and

(iii) responsive to a determination that the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query, outputting the at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query as a search result of the search query.

The method of claim 34, wherein determining whether at least one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set associated with the search query is a valid search result set for the search query comprises determining at least one of the following: determining that one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set is new, determining that one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set includes a change, determining that a new article exists in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that a new article has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that an article in the previously stored result set has been changed, determining that a new email has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that a new email has been sent in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that a new web page has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that a web page has been changed in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, determining that a new document has been received in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set, and determining that a new document has been generated in one of the plurality of categories of the previously stored result set.